

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 29, and 30 are independent.

The undersigned and Applicants' Canadian representative, Mr. Omar Nassif, would like to thank Examiner Ho for the cordial and productive interview of April 14, 2004, 2003. The Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions were instrumental in preparing this response.

Claims 1-30 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kleshinski. (5,755,778), for the reasons detailed at pages 2-3 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections.

As discussed at the interview, each of the independent Claims 1, 29, and 30 recites a novel combination of structure and/or steps whereby a covering material is provided on a cantilevered expandable leaf portion. See, for example, the Fig. 8 embodiment where the covering 125 is provided on the cantilevered leaf portion 120. In the described embodiments, the covering is provided on the leaf portion while the leaf portion is expanded, and then the leaf portion is compressed. This results in a covering which has a larger surface area than the underlying leaf portion when the leaf portion is in the unexpanded state. During expansion, the covering with the larger surface area will not act to prevent the leaf portion from fully expanding to block the aneurysm opening.

As discussed at the interview, since none of the art of record in this case

(including Kleshinski and Marotta) discloses such a combination of features, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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